



UNITED NATIONS CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID

1/3

January/March 1991

NEWS DIGEST*

I. ACTION BY UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND AGENCIES

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST
APARTHEID RE-ELECTS
PROFESSOR IBRAHIM A.
GAMBARI (NIGERIA)
CHAIRMAN FOR 1991**

At its first meeting held on 31 January 1991, the Special Committee against Apartheid re-elected Professor Ibrahim A. Gambari as its chairman for 1991. It also re-elected H.E. Mr. Jai Pratap Rana (Nepal), H.E.M. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukraine) and H.E. Dr. Marjorie R. Thorpe (Trinidad and Tobago) as Vice-Chairmen and Mr. Virendra Gupta (India) as Rapporteur.

The Committee also elected H.E. Mr. Kofi Nyidevu Awoonor (Ghana) as Chairman of its Sub-Committee on Implementation of United Nations Resolutions; and H.E. Mr. Simbarashe Simbanenduku Mubengwegwi (Zimbabwe) as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Developments in South Africa.

Other members of the Committee include: Algeria, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Philippines, Somalia, Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

Addressing the Committee, upon his re-election, the Chairman pointed out that this year would be particularly challenging for the Committee, in the light of the rapid changes taking place in South Africa, and that these developments and their repercussions on the international response to apartheid will need to be closely monitored and analysed. He cautioned that the ongoing political process in South Africa may not always be smooth. He pointed out that South Africa is still essentially a violent society which has been ravaged by the effects of apartheid. And, therefore, the Special Committee welcomed the agreement reached on 29 January between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party, and hoped that this would

* The *News Digest* is an occasional publication which presents a summary of international, regional and national action against apartheid. It is issued for information purposes only and is not an official record. The *News Digest* is prepared by the Centre against Apartheid mainly on the basis of available reports. Any additional information by organizations and individuals concerned would be appreciated.

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contribute to bringing together the majority in facing the challenges ahead.

In the light of all this, he said that the promotion of the peaceful process of negotiations would be central to the task of the Committee this year. He said particular attention would be paid to the elimination of obstacles to this process related to the redressing of the social and economic inequities of the country and that assistance to the disadvantaged sections of South Africa and to the victims of apartheid would be foremost among the Committee's concerns.

Summing up his observations of developments in South Africa, the Chairman said: "What appears inescapable is that the international community has the duty to maintain pressure on South Africa during the whole process of negotiations and until a new constitution establishing a non-racial democracy in South Africa is adopted. The question that will have to be answered is: what should be the appropriate nature of that pressure? The Special Committee plans to contribute to this debate and hopes that the answer will be reached through another international consensus."

The Chairman also reminded the international community that the negotiations about to start in South Africa will not be held between equals, but rather

that they will be between those whose authority is based on a system which has been universally condemned on the one hand, and those whose struggle is for the realization of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the other. "Our duty is clearly to help ensure that the international community treats the two sides in the negotiations with appropriate differentiation. And it is our further duty to help ensure that the imbalance of power on the two sides of the negotiating table does not become an impediment to the creation of a just society in that country," said the Chairman.

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS HEARTENED BY PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S PARLIAMENTARY ADDRESS CALLS FOR REMOVAL OF REMAINING OBSTACLES TO NEGOTIATIONS

Responding to President de Klerk's announcement of 1 February, that his Government would repeal the two Land Acts, the Group Areas Act and consider repealing the Population Registration Act, a statement attributable to the spokesman of the Secretary-General read, as follows:

"The address of President de Klerk at the opening of the South African parliament advances further the process of removing statutory apartheid from the country's

institutional framework. The Secretary-General hopes that these constructive initiatives will be accompanied by measures giving substantive effect to the removal of the main pillars of apartheid and by the resolution of a number of outstanding issues required for the commencement of negotiations. The Secretary-General is heartened to see that these and other initiatives of South African leaders are providing an impetus to the process of eradicating apartheid and the establishment of a non-racial and democratic society in the country as envisaged by the United Nations."

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID: PRESIDENT DE KLERK'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON 1 FEBRUARY REPRESENTS FURTHER STEP TO BRING ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA

While acknowledging that President de Klerk's announcement of 1 February undoubtedly represents "a step forward in the on-going process of bringing about fundamental change in South Africa," the Special Committee expressed the hope that these measures would be accompanied by substantive policies regarding access to land by the black majority, as well as by programmes of affirmative action, which are necessary to redress the grave socio-economic inequities generated by those Acts in education, housing, health and employment.

The Committee expressed disappointment with the fact that, rather than accept the demand of "the majority of the people of South Africa for a constituent Assembly and an interim government," President de Klerk has chosen to promote the idea of holding a multi-party conference and to consider transitional arrangements at all levels of government.

The Committee also expressed concern over President de Klerk's silence on a number of issues crucial to the creation of an appropriate atmosphere for negotiations and his failure to address himself to the issue of the Internal Security Act and the implementation of other agreements reached with the African National Congress, in particular concerning the release of political prisoners and the return of political exiles without restrictions.

In the light of these shortcomings, the Committee, while encouraged by some of the latest initiatives of President de Klerk, concluded that appropriate pressure on South Africa should be maintained during the process of future negotiations towards the preparation and adoption of a new constitution. It declared that a rush to lift restrictive measures now would be not only contrary to the United Nations Declaration and subsequent consensus resolutions, but would also have the effect of prematurely depriving the international

community of the possibility of applying effective pressure, if necessary, at a later stage.

**GENEVA: HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION CONSIDERS
APARTHEID-RELATED ITEMS**

At its forty-seventh session held in Geneva recently, the Human Rights Commission; among other issues considered the issue of apartheid. The Commission had before it several reports relating to this issue. These reports included: Implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid: Note by the Secretary-General (Doc. E/CN.4/1991/40 of 18 December 1990); Reports submitted by States Parties under article VII of the Convention (Docs. E/CN.4/1991/40/Add. 1 of 29 November 1990 and E/CN.4/1991/40 Add. 2 of 12 December 1990); Views and information submitted by States parties, specialized agencies and non-governmental organisations in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1990/11 and 1990/26 and Economic and Social Council decision 1990/228 (Doc. E/CN. 4/1990/10 of 2 January 1991).

Opening the debate on apartheid, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Jan Martenson, welcomed the recent announcement by President de Klerk that the legal basis for

the system of apartheid was to be repealed. However, he pointed out that other measures would have to be taken to ensure that the human rights situation of the black population would be improved in reality.

Regarding the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, Mr. Martenson said so far, the instrument has been ratified or acceded to by 88 States. Under the Convention, apartheid was declared "a crime against humanity," defined in terms of acts "committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them."

Since 1978, the Group of Three (comprising of any three States parties to the Convention) designated by the Chairman of Human Rights Commission to monitor the implementation of the International Convention has considered 127 reports submitted by 54 States parties, and made a number of recommendations regarding measures to be adopted by States parties, by the Commission and by the Group itself to implement the Convention.

Participants also welcomed President de Klerk's proposals but expressed concern about reports of

persistent human rights violations, while some cautioned against premature action with regard to relaxing sanctions. Most felt that much remained to be done, especially regarding, the release of political prisoners and detainees, the unconditional return of exiles the curbing of violence and the continued use of repressive laws such as the Internal Security Act.

In the light of all this, at the conclusion of its debate on apartheid, the Commission on Human Rights adopted the following three resolutions:

In a resolution on detention, torture and other inhuman treatment of children in South Africa, adopted by consensus, the Commission reiterated its vigorous condemnation of the detention, torture and inhuman treatment of children in South Africa; demanded that South Africa lift forthwith the restrictions imposed on children, and ensure their basic and legitimate freedoms of movement, association and education; demanded also the immediate and unconditional release of all children still held in detention, and further demanded the immediate, total and effective implementation of the political measures announced in the policy statements of President de Klerk on 1 and 2 February 1991. In the meantime the Commission appealed to the international community to

maintain pressure on the Government of South Africa to achieve "profound and irreversible change to eradicate the policy of apartheid and the inhuman practices associated with this policy."

In a resolution on the adverse consequences for the enjoyment of human rights of political, military, economic and other forms of assistance given to the racist regime of south Africa, the Commission expressed appreciation to the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Ahmed Khalifa, for his updated report (Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/13 and Add. 1). It called upon all Governments to give the report the widest possible publicity.

Governments and organisations were asked to maintain sanctions against South Africa until the total dismantlement of apartheid. The Commission requested the Secretary-General to contact the Government of South Africa with a view to enabling the Special Rapporteur to undertake a visit to that country in the context of the next update of the current report. The resolution was adopted by 28 votes in favour to 13 against, with 1 abstention.

With regard to the third resolution concerning the implementation of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of apartheid, the Commission urged States which had not yet done so to ratify

or accede to the Convention without delay, especially those which had jurisdiction over transnational corporations operating in South Africa. It called on all States whose transnational corporations continued to do business with South Africa to take all appropriate steps to terminate their dealings with that country, and appealed for strengthened co-operation at the national and international levels in order to implement fully the decisions taken by the Security Council and other competent United Nations bodies with a view to the prevention, suppression and punishment of the crime of apartheid. It further requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts, through appropriate channels, to disseminate information on the Convention, with a view to promoting further ratification of, or accessions to, the Convention. Voting on resolution 29 in favour to 1 against, with 12 abstentions.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN OVER ASSASSINATION OF ANC LAWYER MR. BHEKI MLANGENI AND CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION

Following the assassination on 16 February of Mr. Bheki Mlangeni, a prominent ANC lawyer, on 21 February, the Special Committee against Apartheid issued a statement expressing deep regret and concern over

the incident which "paused a serious threat on the ongoing fragile process towards peaceful negotiations." The Special Committee expressed the hope that as a measure of restoring public confidence, the South African authorities would institute an independent investigation to look into the assassination of Mr. Mlangeni.

Mr. Mlangeni, who was a victim of a sophisticated explosive device implanted in the earphones of a walkman cassette player, had been a recipient of death threats over the past year, especially in connection with his investigative work relating to the uncovering of the death squads.

COMMITTEE OF TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUND FOR SOUTH AFRICA HOLDS CONSULTATIONS ON FUTURE ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF APARTHEID

On 28 February, the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa held consultations with representatives of voluntary organizations engaged in providing assistance to the victims of apartheid in South Africa, prominent lawyers and representatives of national human rights and lawyers' associations from South Africa. The purpose of the consultations was to:-

- assess present and future needs of humanitarian, legal, relief and educational assistance to political

prisoners and their families and, more generally, to victims of apartheid in the light of the evolving situation in South Africa;

- review possible areas of involvement of the Trust Fund in support of the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa and General Assembly resolutions 44/244 of 17 September 1990 and 45/176 A and H of 19 December relating to the reintegration of ex-political prisoners into South Africa aid to the promotion of a culture for human rights and democracy in South Africa; and

- consider alternative ways in which humanitarian, legal and educational assistance currently being provided could be channeled in an appropriate manner to relevant organisations inside South Africa.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID HOLDS HEARINGS WITH SOUTH AFRICAN LEGAL EXPERTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

On 1 March, the Special Committee against Apartheid held hearings with seven South African legal experts on the human rights situation in South Africa. The seven included Mr. Geoffrey Budlender, Director of the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg; Mr. Porian Currin, Director of Lawyers for Human Rights in Pretoria; Mr. Pius Langa, President of

the National Association of Democratic Lawyers; Mr. Moses Mavundla, National Executive, Black Lawyers' Association and Member of the Legal Directorate of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC); Justice Moloto, Director of the Legal Education Centre of the Black Lawyers Association, Johannesburg; Mr. Dullah Omar, Professor of Law and Director of the Community Law Centre of the University of Western Cape, Belville and; Zola Skweyiya, Head of the Legal and Constitutional Department of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC).

With regard to President de Klerk's announcement of 1 February, the seven expressed serious concerns about the implications of the repeal of the Land Acts and the Group Areas Act. They pointed out that the mere repealing of these Acts without instituting some affirmative action to redress the social and economic imbalances imposed upon the victims of apartheid would in effect entrench apartheid in the sense that, while land would be open for purchase by all groups, blacks do not have the means to take advantage of this. In fact, there is fear that whites will end up buying up all the land including the 13 per cent that was previously reserved for blacks. The same applies to the repeal of the Group Areas Act.

They also noted his

failure to address himself to the repressive laws still in place, in particular the Internal Security Act and expressed great concern about the continued existence of "hit squads" in the police and security forces.

Asked about what initiatives could be taken to ensure that the repeal of the Land Acts did not lead to greater inequalities, the speakers offered a few suggestions that: there must be a positive reconstruction act to redress past wrongs; land should be restored to the victims of forced removals; farm workers who had lived on land for many generations should have the right to claim this land; the government should establish institutions such as a land claims court that would accord and apportion land to the people who were entitled to it. With regard to what role the international community could play during future negotiations, the speakers emphasized that the international community should maintain sanctions and continue isolating the apartheid regime.

**THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF
COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN
APPEALS TO ALL COUNTRIES AND
THE UNITED NATIONS TO INCREASE
THEIR SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND
CHILDREN LIVING UNDER
APARTHEID**

At the conclusion of its thirty-fifth session held in

Vienna, Austria, from 27 February to 8 March, the Commission on the Status of Women, in a draft resolution on women and children under apartheid, recommended that the Economic and Social Council urge all parties engaged in negotiations for a post apartheid society to ensure that the principle of equality between women and men was incorporated in all laws and institutions. It also recommended to the Council to appeal to all countries and United Nations bodies, in consultation with liberation movements, to increase their support for educational, health, vocational training and employment opportunities for women and children living under apartheid. The Council was also requested to urge the international community to maintain all existing measures and institute any other measure against South Africa until all the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, had been met.

**THIRTY-TWO GOVERNMENTS PLEDGE
OR CONTRIBUTE US\$8.8 MILLION
TO UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUNDS
AND PROGRAMMES FOR SOUTHERN
AFRICA**

On 20 March 1991, thirty-two governments made pledges and contributions totalling US\$8,856,399 for various United Nations trust funds and programmes for southern Africa.

The contributions and

pledges were received by the Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, at a ceremony that is held annually in connection with the International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination which commemorates an incident on 21 March 1960 in Sharpeville, South Africa, in which 69 peaceful demonstrators against South Africa's "pass laws" were killed and 180 others wounded.

In his opening remarks on the ceremony, the Secretary-General gave an overview of the United Nations funds for southern Africa and thanked governments for their pledges and contributions. He said that the steady flow of resources to the funds indicated the commitment by Governments to the cause of peace and well-being of the peoples of southern Africa.

Last year, 36 governments contributed a total of US\$12,135,011 to the various trust funds and programmes. The General Assembly has appealed annually for contributions to meet the funds' increasing needs.

The funds include the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA), the United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid and the United Nations Fund for the Nationhood programme for Namibia.

Established in 1965, the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa provides legal assistance to persons persecuted under repressive and discriminatory legislation of South Africa; relief to such persons and their dependants; education for such persons and their dependants; and relief for refugees from South Africa. UNETPSA grants scholarships to students from Namibia and South Africa for training abroad. However, with the independence of Namibia, new scholarships to Namibians will be granted for a transitional period only. The United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid reinforces the organization's information activities aimed at making world public opinion more aware of United Nations efforts towards the peaceful elimination of apartheid and the promotion of a negotiated settlement. The United Nations Trust Fund for the Nationhood Programme for Namibia was established to provide assistance to Namibians. Following Namibia's independence the General Assembly decided that the Fund should continue to operate until the orderly completion of all programmes and activities still in place.

Contributions to these Funds can be mailed to: Treasurer of the United Nations, Rm. S-2770A, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017. Checks should be made out indicating to which Fund or Programme the contribution is

being made.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST
APARTHEID HOLDS SOLEMN MEETING
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
ELIMINATION OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION**

On 21 March, the Special Committee against Apartheid held a meeting in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Speakers included the Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Professor Ibrahim A. Gambari; the Secretary-General, the President of the Security Council, Mr. Peter Hohenfellner (Austria); the Chairman of the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for Africa, Mr. Jan Eliasson (Sweden); the Chairman of the Committee on Decolonization, Mr. Tesfaye Tadesse (Ethiopia); Mr. S.E.M. Phoko of the Pan Africanist congress of Azania (PAC); Mr. Tebogo Mafole of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and; Mr. Maha Khoury of the Palestine Observer Mission to the United Nations.

Opening the meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee said that the United Nations and the international community had consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the global struggle for the elimination of racial discrimination wherever it may exist. Yet, in spite of this concerted global campaign, racism still thrives globally

in different shades and colours.

With regard to the issue of apartheid, he said that it was a matter of public information and record that the "invidious system of apartheid," had over the years imposed intolerable hardship and an extreme degree of inequality on the majority of South Africans, in particular black South Africans. Therefore, the challenge before the international community remains the need to urgently eradicate this obnoxious system.

While welcoming recent pronouncements by the South African authorities to repeal the Land and Group Areas Act and to introduce interim changes to the Population Registration Act, the Chairman pointed out that their mere repeal would lack merit and remain unwholesome if they fail to redress substantive issues related to access to land and affirmative action programmes that would in turn redress the grave socio-economic inequities generated by racial and discriminatory laws.

The Chairman noted that questions are now being asked in many quarters about the rationale of sustained and continued pressure against South Africa. To this he said the rationale is as obvious as the answer itself. He pointed out that whereas there have been perceptible progress in the policies of the de Klerk

administration, neither apartheid policies nor the practice have yet been eradicated. Therefore until the South African Government fulfills its statutory obligations towards the peace process, the international community in line with the consensus resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in September and December 1990, should "maintain measures aimed at applying pressure on the South African regime to eradicate apartheid and to promote profound and irreversible changes, having in mind the objectives of the Declaration, namely the speedy eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa."

Noting the "serious strides" made by the South African Government towards the dismantling of apartheid, during the past year, the Secretary-General pointed out that a number of difficult obstacles remained to be overcome in achieving a system based on equality, democracy and the rule of law. Singling out the problem of violence, he said all parties had a responsibility to end the violence raging in the country which he described as "profoundly disturbing." He said that the South African Government had a special responsibility to ensure that security forces discharged their duties in an impartial manner.

He drew attention to the

need for measures to urgently address some of the most glaring social and economic imbalances inflicted by apartheid on the black population of South Africa. he promised to follow closely developments in South Africa, in particular the progress made in implementing the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

The President of the Security Council said that the members of the Council joined with the rest of the international community in remembering all victims of racial discrimination, especially those who had suffered under apartheid. He said the Council members reaffirmed their support for the total eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a united non-racial and democratic society in South Africa, in which all its people enjoyed the same fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Citing President de Klerk's announcement of 1 February and his agreement on 12 February with Mr Mandela to expedite the return of exiles and the release of political prisoners, the Chairman of the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for south Africa said South Africa appeared to be on the road towards democracy. Nevertheless, he said it was important not to underestimate the difficulties that still lay ahead.

In this regard, he pointed out that there was still a "dangerous gap" between the public declarations of the South African Government and the factual situation within the country. He noted that political trails still continued; the Internal Security Act and other repressive legislation remained in effect; political prisoners were still in jail; and the current violence had not been contained. He declared that it was therefore essential that the international community maintain its level of support and commitment for those standing in defence of freedom, justice and equality for all South Africans.

While welcoming the positive turn of events in South Africa, the Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization cautioned against the premature lifting of sanctions against South Africa. The representatives of the ANC and PAC also urged strict adherence to the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its Consequences on Southern Africa.

II. ACTION BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA RECOMMENDS MAINTENANCE OF SANCTIONS

Reacting to President de Klerk's announcement of 1 February 1991, the

Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa, at a meeting held in London on 16 February, recommended that sanctions be maintained until President de Klerk's Government translates its promises to dismantle apartheid into concrete action. However, the Committee promised to convene again on 30 April, immediately after the date set for the return of ANC exiles and possibly the release of the remaining political prisoners.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) PLANS TO EASE MEASURES ADOPTED IN 1986 AS SOON AS LEGISLATION IS TABLED TO REPEAL KEY APARTHEID LAWS

Following President de Klerk's announcement of 1 February 1991, on 4 February, the European Community issued a statement in which it said: "The Community and its Member States recall that at its meeting of 14 and 15 December 1990, the European Council decided that as soon as legislative action is taken by the South African Government to repeal the "Group Areas Act" and the "Land Acts" the Community and its Member States will proceed to an easing of the set of measures adopted in 1986. In these circumstances, the Community will prepare the necessary steps." Meanwhile on 21 February, the European Parliament voted 96 to 44 in favour of maintaining sanctions against South Africa.

**ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
(OAU) SAYS THERE IS A
CONTINUED NEED TO MAINTAIN
SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA**

Following its meeting held in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 7 February, the OAU's Ad Hoc Committee of Heads of State and Government on Southern Africa issued a communique entitled "Harare Communique" in which it outlined its position on President de Klerk's announcement. The Ad Hoc Committee resolved that there was a continued need to maintain sanctions and all forms of pressure against the South African regime, until "transitional arrangements and modalities on the process of the drawing up and adoption of a new constitution, and of the transition to a democratic order, including the holding of elections," are agreed.

**CARICOM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
AGREE THAT SANCTIONS SHOULD BE
MAINTAINED**

At their recent inter-sessional meeting the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government inter-alia, discussed recent events in South Africa, considered international reaction to these events, in particular the EC decision to lift the ban on new investment in South Africa and the call to lift the sports boycott. They also considered the recent statement issued by the Commonwealth Committee on Southern Africa advocating that sanctions be maintained

until real and practical steps towards the eradication of apartheid had been taken. In the light of this, the CARICOM Heads of Government, while welcoming the steps taken by President de Klerk, agreed that sanctions should be maintained until "irreversible steps to end apartheid have been taken, and urged the international community to do likewise.

**AFRICAN CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC
(ACP) COUNTRIES PUSH FOR
CONTINUED SANCTIONS AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA**

At a four-day meeting on trade, debt and economic reform which took place in Kampala, Uganda, the 68 Ministers from the ACP countries urged the EC Governments to maintain sanctions against South Africa. Opening the four-day session, the President of Uganda, Mr. Yoweri Museveni, said that only comprehensive sanctions would ensure democratic rule in South Africa.

**FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NORDIC
COUNTRIES EXPRESS SATISFACTION
AT PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN SOUTH
AFRICA**

Following a two-day meeting (22-23 March 1991) at Karlsham, the Foreign Ministers of the Nordic Countries issued a statement on South Africa in which inter alia: they noted with satisfaction that since their last meeting in 1990, progress has continued in South Africa;

observed that the South African Government has now taken significant concrete steps to realize President de Klerk's promises in the form of legislative proposals which were presented recently; were encouraged that additional agreements have been reached between the ANC and the South African Government regarding the resumption of the release of political prisoners and the repatriation of refugees in exile. However, the Ministers expressed concern over the "brutal and meaningless violence," which has resulted in thousands of deaths during the past few years.

Against this background the Foreign Ministers discussed how the Nordic countries can best support and expedite the dialogue in South Africa and the process of negotiation. In this regard they felt that time was approaching when the economic sanctions applied by Nordic countries against South Africa must be reexamined. They also confirmed their intention to support efforts in South Africa to reduce economic differences and to promote democracy, following the abolition of the apartheid system. In the meantime, they have decided to abolish the special guidelines which apply for the granting of visas to South African citizens, with the exception of restrictions which are required to ensure the implementation of nationally applicable sanctions.

**ELEVENTH SADCC ANNUAL
CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE
AFFIRMS NEED FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO
MAINTAIN SANCTIONS AGAINST
SOUTH AFRICA**

At their Eleventh Annual Consultative Conference held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 31 January to 1 February 1991, the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) issued a communique in which they welcomed the steps taken by the South African Government and the African National Congress (ANC) to begin negotiations aimed at giving all South Africans equal rights in a united country.

The Conference particularly appreciated the attendance of Mr. Nelson Mandela and welcomed his message of hope and optimism for the future of South Africa and the region as a whole. However, the Conference noted with regret that violence and bloodshed continued to be a common feature of life in South Africa, in this regard the Conference urged the South African Government and all other parties to take effective steps to end the violence.

Since apartheid was still in place, the Conference affirmed the need for the international community to maintain sanctions until apartheid is completely dismantled.

III. ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS

Several governments responded to President de Klerk's announcement of 1 February 1991. Among them were Australia, Botswana, India, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States. Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom felt that the Commonwealth should immediately begin a phased lifting of sanctions while Botswana and India felt that more had to be done before sanctions could be relaxed.

CUBA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO RATIFY THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AGAINST APARTHEID IN SPORTS

Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba became the 49th and 50th States respectively to ratify the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports. Their instruments of accession were received by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs on 11 October and 11 December 1990, respectively.

Under the provisions of the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1985, States parties shall not permit sports contact with a country practising apartheid and shall take appropriate action to ensure that their sports bodies, teams and individual sportsmen do not have such contact. Among other things parties to the Convention shall prohibit

entry into their countries of teams or individual sportsmen participating or who have participated in sports competitions in South Africa.

In accordance with the convention, which entered into force on 3 April 1988, a Commission against Apartheid in Sports was established, consisting of "15 members of high moral character and committed to the struggle against apartheid." The Commission reports annually to the General Assembly and makes recommendations based on examination of reports and information received from States parties.

As of 11 December 1990 the following 50 States had either ratified, acceded to or approved the Convention: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Burkino Faso, Byelorussia, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

**IV. ACTION BY NON-
GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS**

**ASSOCIATION OF WEST EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR ACTION
AGAINST APARTHEID (AWEPA) TO
SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF
DEMOCRATIZATION IN SOUTH
AFRICA**

In its Plan of Action for 1991 AWEPA plans the following activities for South Africa:

- maintaining sanctions and pressure on the South African Government until there is evidence of "profound and irreversible change" towards the eradication of apartheid and the establishment of a unitary, democratic, non-racial State, as required by the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions of 1989 and 1990;

- increasing assistance to the victims of apartheid including the re-establishment of banned organizations and reintegration of political prisoners and returning exiles

- supporting the process of democratization in South Africa;

- supporting social and economic development in the interest of all South Africans.

Special attention will be paid to the EC policy towards South Africa, and to the dialogue for development and reconciliation.

**SEVENTH ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)
REAFFIRMS NEED TO MAINTAIN
SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA**

At the conclusion of its Seventh Assembly which took place in Canberra, Australia, from 7 to 21 February 1991, the World Council of Churches issued a statement on South Africa in which inter-alia; while welcoming President de Klerk's recent decision to seek the repeal of the Land Acts, the Group Areas Act and the Population Registration Act, the Assembly noted that many of the discriminatory structures and practices which these Acts created remain intact.

The Assembly also noted that the security laws which sustain apartheid and fuel township violence are still in place; political prisoners, incarcerated under apartheid laws are still not free; the indemnity regulations gazetted in October 1991 fall far short of an amnesty; the repatriation of exiles and the release of political prisoners are, consequently, well behind schedule; apartheid is still maintained in economic structures, in housing, education, business and finance as well as in health services; President de Klerk's announcement contained no promise to restore people and communities to lands from which they were forcibly removed in recent years nor, does it offer compensation for lands unjustly expropriated; there has been no commitment

made to a policy of fair and just redistribution of land; the majority of South Africans are still denied the right to vote and the exercise of political power through constitutional means.

In the light of all this and on the basis of consultations with the South African Council of Churches and other partners within the South African community, the Assembly strongly reaffirmed the position of the WCC Central Committee on the need to maintain sanctions against South Africa until all apartheid laws have been repealed. The Assembly also expressed agreement with the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid which urges that measures be undertaken "to ensure encouraging the South African regime to eradicate apartheid, until there is clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes."

In this regard, the Assembly requested the WCC Central Committee, as a matter of urgency, to initiate a consultation process with member churches in South Africa, the South African Council of Churches and the liberation movements with a view to: determining the criteria for "clear evidence of profound and irreversible changes" and to agree together on the moment when the lifting of sanctions would be justified as well as coordinating ecumenical action for reconstruction, reconciliation and the

appropriate means to promote a free, democratic, non-racial and unitary state in South Africa.

In addition, the Assembly appealed to the South African Government to: repeal all repressive security legislation and to reorganize the police and security forces in a manner representative of all sectors of the South African society and which is more accountable to impartial democratic institutions; create a climate conducive to negotiations and; provide for the security and protection of all partners in the negotiating process. The Assembly also called upon all South Africans to become involved in the process of constructive change by striving to remove all vestiges of injustice, seeking reconciliation and the healing of wounds, banishing fear and mistrust and renewing their commitment to building a nation in which the new political order will be complimented by new attitudes, new relationships of tolerance and respect for the humanity of all people.

**ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS
WELCOME DECISION OF EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT TO MAINTAIN
PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA**

On 22 February 1991, the Anti-Apartheid Movement of the European Community issued a statement welcoming the resolution on Southern Africa adopted by the European

Parliament on 21 February. In their statement, the Liaison Group commended the resolution and said it demonstrated that European public opinion was still firmly committed to the anti-apartheid cause.

The statement further pointed out that this decision was particularly significant in that it showed that the Parliament refused to endorse last December's decision by the Rome Summit to relax the Community's 1986 sanctions package. Instead by voting 96 to 44 for the maintenance of all existing sanctions, the Parliament has endorsed the position taken by the ANC, the Frontline States, the Organization of African Unity and the Commonwealth since President de Klerk's 1 February speech, that now is not the time to lift sanctions.

Stating that the Parliament had recognized that the Rome Summit had acted prematurely, the Liaison Group resolved to seek an urgent meeting with the President of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Jacques Poos, to impress upon him the need for a change of European Community Policy towards South Africa.

**WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED
NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS (WFUNA)
ISSUES STATEMENT ON THE
ELIMINATION OF APARTHEID**

On 8 March 1991, the Executive Committee of the World Federation of United Nations, Geneva, issued a

statement in which inter-alia; they pledged their full commitment to the urgent elimination of apartheid; noted that since February 1990 a number of important developments have taken place in South Africa; warmly welcomed the meeting held between Mr. Nelson Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi; greeted positively the statement made by President F.W. de Klerk at the opening of Parliament on 1 February and noted that the fulfilling of this commitment would certainly go a long way towards making the elimination of apartheid truly "irreversible."

They expressed the view that negotiations should be set up as soon as possible between the South African Government and the representatives of the majority of organisations. They urged that such negotiations should seek to conclude, as a matter of major priority, a structure for the holding of future national and local elections on the basis of a genuinely universal franchise containing a single voter role. Until South Africa adopts a new constitution, they recommended the maintenance of existing measures.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND

On 15 February 1991, about a dozen members of the anti-apartheid organization,

HART, protested outside the Sheraton Hotel in Auckland where South African pioneer heart transplant Dr. Christiaan Barnard was speaking to Auckland doctors. The international secretary of HART, Mr. John Minto, said Dr. Barnard was breaching the academic boycott of South Africa.

UNITED STATES

On 11 February 1991, the Governor of New Jersey, Mr. Jim Florio, announced that the State would not renew a contract with the Shell Corporation to supply petrol stations on some of its main roads as a result of Shell's continued involvement in South Africa.

DELETIONS FROM THE REGISTER OF SPORTS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

The Special Committee against Apartheid has decided to delete the following names of sportspersons from the Register of Sports Contacts with South Africa. The sportspersons concerned have pledged not to compete in any sports events in South Africa as long as the system of apartheid prevails. The list consists of names deleted in the period January to March 1991.

David Campese, rugby player, Australia

Priscillo Diniz, golf player, Brazil

Eamonn Darcy, golf player, Ireland

Rui da Costa, golf player, Portugal

Stuart Little, golf player, United Kingdom

Malcom John Mackenzie, golf player, United Kingdom

Angus Baker, Jr. golf player, United States

Tyrone Booze, boxer, United States

Shelby Cannon, tennis player, United States

Greg Van Emburgh, tennis player, United States

Greg Failla, tennis player, United States

Manning Galloway, boxer, United States

Robert Van't Hof, tennis player, United States

Craig Johnson, tennis player, United States

Alfonso Mora, tennis player, United States

Scott Palridge, tennis player, United States

Lief Shiras, tennis player, United States

Charles Raulerson, Jr., golf player, United States

Courtesy of News Digest, prepared by the
Centre against Apartheid